Remarks

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 are independent.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson U.S. Patent No. 5,721,847 ("Johnson") in view of an article titled *StatTrack K-Force* (2003) ("StatTrack").

The present invention is directed to a new paradigm for "cells" in a spreadsheet, wherein the cells are provided with built-in functionality for incrementing, list selection and selection/de-selection. Clicking or tapping on a cell invokes functionality per the assigned "cell type" and differs from the traditional paradigm for interaction with spreadsheet cells, wherein a user can only enter text, numbers or formulas. This leads to a compact representation ideally suited to small screens (such as found on PDA devices) and a simple model for a data recording interface which looks like a spreadsheet. According to the invention, a cell in a spreadsheet has a defined functionality (such as tap count, choice list or check mark). When tapped upon, the property causes a cell-driven dynamic behavior. In this cell-centric method, the cell behaves as if it were the control, rather than just receiving a value from the control.

Johnson teaches a control-centric method for enabling a user to control a cell of a spreadsheet by manipulating a graphical control rather than by tapping or clicking on the cell. Johnson's method includes: (a) providing a toolbar on which is disposed a *graphic*

representation of a control; (b) enabling the user to *select the graphic representation of the control* on the toolbar and *position a copy of the graphic representation of the control in a spreadsheet* selected by the user on a display; and (c) enabling the user to *link the cell of the spreadsheet to the control* without requiring the user to enter code to effect the link. (*emphasis added*). Accordingly, Johnson is directed to a method for defining a series of graphic controls (not cells) using selection panels and property lists. These graphic controls are separate and distinct elements on the display, and are used to replace the contents of the target cells "linked" to each graphic control. This link affects the value of the cell when the graphic control is manipulated. As such, Johnson provides a method for setting up graphic controls which write to (and in some circumstances read from) cells, but it does not describe a functionality invoked when a user taps on a "cell".

Independent claim 1 recites a method of updating a spreadsheet-based cell having a value, the method comprising: (i) tapping on the cell; (ii) automatically increasing the value of the cell by a predetermined increment each time the cell is tapped; and (iii) recording a statistic of an athletic competition using the value of the cell. Independent claim 13 is similar to claim 1, but recites clicking on the cell rather than tapping. Johnson fails to teach tapping/clicking on a spreadsheet-based cell and automatically increasing the value of the cell by a predetermined increment each time the cell is tapped.

The Office Action states on page 2, that Johnson teaches "'tapping on the cell' ([Col 9, lines 56-62] wherein Jeffrey teaches clicking on the cell increases the value within the cell, which is synonymous to updating the spreadsheet) 'automatically increasing the value of the cell by a predetermined increment each time the cell is tapped' ([Col. 9, lines 56-62, Col. 10, lines

52-Col.11, lines 4] wherein Jeffrey's teachings of clicking on the cell which causes an incremental change is synonymous to teaches of applicant)". In contrast to the invention as recited in claims 1 and 13, Johnson teaches clicking on a graphic control rather than on the actual spreadsheet-based cell. Referring Figure 3C, Johnson discloses a scrollbar 164 including arrows and a slider 166, wherein the minimum and maximum values for the scrollbar are zero and 100, respectively. Johnson further provides that "*each click on the arrows disposed at the end of the scrollbar increases or decreases the value in the spreadsheet cell* linked to the scrollbar graphic control by the amount indicated in the 'Incremental Change' input box" (*emphasis* added). In other words, spreadsheet cell D1 (which has a value of 50) is not tapped or clicked to effectuate an incremental change in value. Accordingly, Johnson clearly does not disclose tapping/clicking on a spreadsheet-based cell and automatically increasing the value of the cell by a predetermined increment each time the cell is tapped.

The Office Action applies the teachings of StatTrack to show "recording a statistic of an athletic competition using the value of the cell". However, StatTrack does not teach tapping/clicking on a spreadsheet-based cell and automatically increasing the value of the cell by a predetermined increment each time the cell is tapped, and therefore fails to cure the deficiencies of Johnson.

Independent claim 7 recites a method of updating a spreadsheet-based cell having a cell-based drop-down list, the drop-down list including a plurality of alternative cell values, the method comprising: (i) tapping on the cell; (ii) automatically displaying the drop-down list in response to tapping on the cell; (iii) tapping on one of the alternative cell values to select a new cell value; and (iv) automatically entering the new cell value into the cell, wherein the new cell

value represents a new value of a player in an athletic competition. Independent claim 16 is similar to claim 1, but recites clicking on the cell rather than tapping. Johnson does not disclose tapping/clicking on a cell, automatically displaying the drop-down list in response to tapping/clicking on the cell, tapping on one of the alternative cell values to select a new cell value, and automatically entering the new cell value into the cell.

According to the claimed invention, tapping or clicking on a cell having a cell-based drop-down list causes a cell-originated dynamic behavior which displays a list box in that cell location from which the user makes a selection. The value is then stored as the cell value and the list box is erased from the display automatically. On the other hand, according to the teachings of Johnson, the list box graphic control must be visible to be used, and the action of selecting a list box item must originate in the list box graphic control, rather than by tapping/clicking on the cell. Additionally, Johnson discloses that the index of the user selection is stored in the cell, rather than the actual value (see, e.g., col. 3, lines 5 to 13 and cell B1 in FIGS. 3A and 3B). Accordingly, Johnson fails to teach the steps of tapping/clicking on a cell, automatically displaying the drop-down list in response to tapping/clicking on the cell, tapping on one of the alternative cell values to select a new cell value, and automatically entering the new cell value into the cell.

Again, the Office Action applies the teachings of StatTrack to show "recording a statistic of an athletic competition using the value of the cell". However, StatTrack fails to cure the deficiencies of Johnson by providing a teaching for tapping/clicking on a cell and automatically displaying a drop-down list in response to tapping/clicking on the cell, tapping on one of the

alternative cell values to select a new cell value, and automatically entering the new cell value into the cell.
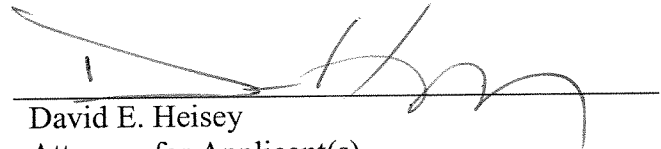
In view of the above, is respectfully submitted that Johnson in view of StatTrack fails to render obvious claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18 is solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 19-1853 for any additional required fees.

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